

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07
INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 INRE-00 IOE-00 SSO-00
L-03 DHA-02 SS-15 OIC-02 /071 W
-----171741Z 043408 /50

O P 171639Z MAY 77
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7437
INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 3833

PASS LABOR FOR ILAB

PASS COMMERCE FOR UPTON

SIL FOR DALE GOOD

IO FOR PALMER

RABAT FOR HOROWITZ

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ILO, PLAB
SUBJ: INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE: RESOLUTION CONDEMNING
U.S. FOR DISCRIMINATION AND RACISM IN CANAL ZONE

1. A PANAMANIAN WORKER DELEGATE, ANGEL GOMEZ, HAS
SUBMITTED A RESOLUTION CONDEMNING THE U.S. (SEE PARA
2 BELOW) TO THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE (ILC).
THE RESOLUTION WAS FORWARDED TO ILO ON GOMEZ' BEHALF
BY THE PANAMANIAN AMBASSADOR IN GENEVA AND THE
SECRETARIAT THEREFORE ASSUMES THAT GOMEZ' CREDENTIALS
AS AN ILC DELEGATE WILL ARRIVE IN ORDER, SO THAT THERE
IS VIRTUALLY NO CHANCE THAT THE RESOLUTION WILL BE HELD
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UNRECEIVABLE BECAUSE OF LACK OF PROPER CREDENTIALS
OF THE SPONSOR. THE RESOLUTION BEARS A STRIKING
RESEMBLANCE TO THE 1974 ILC RESOLUTION ON ISRAEL: IT
CONDEMNS THE U.S. AND CALLS UPON THE GOVERNING BODY
AND THE DIRECTOR GENERAL TO TAKE ACTIONS TO END
ALLEGED VIOLATIONS; IT DOES NOT PROPOSE THE USE OF ILO
INVESTIGATORY PROCEDURES. THE PANAMANIAN RESOLUTION

MAY BE VERY HELPFUL TO US IN OUR EFFORTS TO PERSUADE ILO MEMBERS THAT THE ARTICLE 17 OF THE ILC STANDING ORDERS NEEDS TO BE AMENDED TO PROVIDE A PROCEDURE TO SCREEN OUT RESOLUTIONS THAT IGNORE DUE PROCESS OR WHICH ARE IRRELEVANT TO ILO CONFENTIONS.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE POLICY OF DISCRIMINATION, RACISM AND VIOLATION OF FREEDOMS PRACTISED BY THE UNITED STATES AUTHORITIES IN THE TERRITORY UNDER NORTH AMERICAN JURISDICTION IN THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA KNOWN AS THE CANAL ZONE

SUBMITTED BY MR. ANGEL GOMEZ, WORKERS' DELEGATE, PANAMA

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION,

CONSIDERING "THAT UNIVERSAL AND LASTING PEACE CAN BE ESTABLISHED ONLY IF IT IS BASED UPON SOCIAL JUSTICE", AS PROCLAIMED IN THE CONSITUTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION,

CONSIDERING THAT THE DECLARATION OF PHILADELPHIA SOLEMNLY PROCLAIMS THAT "ALL HUMAN BEINGS, IRRESPECTIVE OF RACE, CREED OR SEX HAVE THE RIGHT TO PURUSE BOTH THEIR MATERIAL WELL-BEING AND THEIR SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT IN CONDITIONS OF FREE-DOM AND DIGNITY",
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CONSIDERING THAT THE RIGHT TO WORK, TO FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT, TO EXPLOIT THE NATIONAL RESOURCES OF THE HOME COUNTRY AND TO EXERCISE JURISDICTION OVER ITS ENTIRE TERRITORY ARE INALIENABLE RIGHTS, RECOGNIZED BY THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND BY THE WORLD EMPLOYMENT CONFERENCE,

CONSIDERING THAT IT IS THE DUTY OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION TO SAFEGUARD THOSE RIGHTS AND TO WORK TOWARDS THEIR REINFORCEMENT,

RECALLING THAT THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE ADOPTED THE DISCRIMINATION (EMPLOYMENT AND OCCUPATION) CONVENTION, 1958 (NO. 111).

RECALLING THAT THE WORLD EMPLOYMENT CONFERENCE RECOGNISED THE INALIENABLE RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO EXPLOIT THEIR OWN RESOURCES,

RECALLING THAT THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE AFFIRMED, IN THE RESOLUTION CONCERNING TRADE UNION RIGHTS AND THEIR RELATION TO CIVIL LIBERTIES, ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY AT ITS 54TH SESSION, THAT WITHOUT NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE AND POLITICAL LIBERTY FULL AND GUINUIN TRADE UNION RIGHTS CANNOT EXIST,

RECALLING FURTHER, THAT THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE IN THE SAME RESOLUTION INVITED THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE ILO TO EXTEND AND EXPAND ITS EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE THE DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICES ON THE BASIS OF RACE, COLOUR, SEX, RELIGION, NATIONALITY, POLITICAL AND TRADE UNION OPINION WHICH STILL EXIST IN SEVERAL COUNTRIES INCLUDING COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES UNDER A COLONIAL REGIME OR FOREIGN DOMINATION IN ANY FORM,

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CONSIDERING THAT THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE HAS AT NUMEROUS SESSIONS ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS CONCERNING RACIAL DISCRIMINATION PRACTISED AGAINST INDIGENOUS POPULATIONS IN AFRICAN TERRITORIES UNDER A COLONIAL REGIME OR FOREIGN DOMINATION AND IN WHICH THE CONDITIONS OF WORK, DISCRIMINATION AND EXPLOITATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES ARE SIMILAR TO THOSE SUFFERED BY THE PANAMANIAN WORKERS WHO ARE WORKING IN THE COLONIAL TERRITORY KNOWN AS THE CANAL ZONE,

GRAVELY CONCERNED AT THE CONTINUING VIOLATION BY THE NORTH AMERICAN AUTHORITIES LOCATED IN THE CANAL ZONE OF THE WORKERS' RIGHTS AND CIVIL LIBERTIES OF PANAMANIAN CITIZENS AND DEEPLY CONCERNED AT THE DANGEROUS CONSEQUENCES DERIVING FROM THIS SITUATION;

1. DECLARES THAT ALL COLONIAL OCCUPATION AND VIOLATION OF SOVEREIGNTY AND OF THE RIGHTS OF WORKERS WHO ARE NATIONALS OF THE COUNTRY CONSTITUTES A PERMANENT VIOLATION OF BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS AND IN PARTICULAR OF THE PRINCIPLE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION AND OF THE SOVEREIGNTY OF MEMBER STATES.

2. CONDEMNS THE POLICY OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND COLONIALISM PRACTISED BY THE NORTH AMERICAN AUTHORITIES IN THE CANAL ZONE, WHICH INFRINGES BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE RIGHT TO SOVEREIGNTY OF ALL PEOPLES.

3. INVITES THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE AND THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL:

(A) TO USE ALL THE MEANS AVILABLE TO THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION WITH A VIEW TO PUTTING AN IMMEDIATE

END TO THSE VIOLATIONS AND DISCRIMINATORY PRACTISES.

(B) TO ADOPT EVERY MEANS WHICH MAY GUARANTEE THE EQUALITY
AND DIGNITY OF THE PANAMANIAN WORKERS IN THE TERRITORY
KNOWN AS THE CANAL ZONE,
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(C) TO ENSURE THE DISSEMINATION AMONG THE MEMBER STATES OF
THE ORGANISATION OF INFORMATION REGARDING THE COLONIAL
STATUS EXISTING IN THE CANAL ZONE AND THE DISCRIMINATION
PRACTISED AGAINST PANAMANIAN WORKERS.

4. REQUESTS THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL TO SUBMIT A SPECIAL
REPORT ON THE APPLICATION OF THIS RESOLUTION TO AN EARLY
SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE. END TEXT.SORENSEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2495122
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE: RESOLUTION CONDEMNING U.S. FOR DISCRIMINATION AND RACISM IN CANAL ZONE
TAGS: ELAB, US, ILO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/af31be92-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009